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work arranged otherwise than by topics. Having said this, the author then continues:

"Conventional histories take for granted that each fact has been discovered by a natural series of deductions from earlier facts and devote considerable space in the attempt to trace the sequence. But men experienced in research know that at least the germs of many important results are discovered by a sudden and mysterious intuition, perhaps the result of subconscious mental effort, even though such intuitions have to be subjected later to the sorting processes of the critical faculties. What is generally wanted is a full and correct statement of the facts, not an historian's personal explanation of those facts. The more completely the historian remains in the background or the less conscious the reader is of the historian's personality, the better the history. With such a view of the ideal self-effacement of the historian, what induced the author to interrupt his own investigations for the greater part of the past nine years to write this history? Because it fitted in with his conviction that every person should aim to perform at some time in his life some serious, useful work for which it is highly improbable that there will be any reward whatever other than his satisfaction therefrom."

It is refreshing and inspiring to find a man, when he pauses at a breathing place in the excellent performance of a great task, willing to set forth in a quiet way the fact that he has been moved by the highest and most unselfish ideal of duty.

R. D. CARMICHAEL.

Logarithmic and Trigonometric Tables. Revised edition. Prepared under the direction of E. R. HEDRICK. New York, Macmillan, 1920. 21 + 143 pp.

Preface: "The present edition of this book contains several tables not contained in the previous editions. The probability of the occurrence of errors has been minimized by using electrotype reproductions of the tables previously included, even when changes were made. Remarkably few errors existed in the original edition; what few have been discovered have been corrected.

"Minor changes only occur in the earlier pages. Care has been taken to preserve the page numbers of the principal tables up to page 114, so that older editions may be used in class-work without confusion, and texts which contain the principal tables may be used in the same class.

"Among the minor changes are the insertion of a condensed table of logarithms and antilogarithms (Table I*a*, p. 20), the insertion of a table of values of S and T for interpolation in logarithmic trigonometric functions (Table III*a*, p. 45), and the insertion on pages 1–19 of the logarithms of a few important numbers at appropriate points.

"The principal changes follow page 114. Tables VIII and IX (pp. 115–122) make reasonably complete the tables of hyperbolic functions formerly represented only by Table XII (pp. 112–114); These functions are of increasing importance, notably in Electrical Engineering.

"The table of haversines (Table X, pp. 123–125) will be welcomed particularly by those interested in navigation.

"The table of factors of composite numbers and logarithms of primes (Table XI, pp. 126–127) has obvious uses.

"Tables XII *a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, *e*, *f*, pages 128–132, are intended for work involving compound interest, annuities, depreciation, etc. They will be useful for statistics, insurance, accounting, and the mathematics of business.

"The same care has been exercised to eliminate errors in the new tables that resulted in so great a degree of reliability in the original edition of these tables."